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United Nations

Statistical Commission

Report on the forty-first session (23 to 26 February 2010)

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Chapter I

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

A. Draft decision for adoption by the Council

1. The Statistical Commission recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

Report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-first session and provisional agenda and dates for the forty-second session of the Commission

The Economic and Social Council:

(a) Takes note of the report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-first session;

(b) Decides that the forty-second session of the Commission shall be held in New York from 22 to 25 February 2011;

(c) Approves the provisional agenda and documentation for the forty-second session of the Commission as set out below:

Provisional agenda for the forty-second session of the Commission

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

Documentation

Provisional agenda and annotations

Note by the Secretariat on the organization of the work of the session

Note by the Secretariat on the state of preparation of documentation for the session

3. Programme review: topic to be determined.

Documentation

Report of the programme reviewer

4. Demographic and social statistics:

(a) Population and housing censuses;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(b) Health statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Health Statistics

(c) Social statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(d) Poverty statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(e) Education statistics;

Documentation

Report of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

(f) Migration statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(g) Gender statistics.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

Report of the Friends of the Chair on the review of indicators on violence against women

5. Economic statistics:

(a) National accounts;

Documentation

Report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts

(b) Agricultural statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Friends of the Chair on agricultural statistics

(c) Wiesbaden Group on Business Registers;

Documentation

Report of the Wiesbaden Group

(d) Energy statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

Report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Energy Statistics

Report of the Oslo Group on Energy Statistics

(e) Distributive trade statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(f) Statistics of services;

Documentation

Report of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

(g) Tourism statistics;

Documentation

Report of the World Tourism Organization

(h) International Comparison Programme;

Documentation

Report of the World Bank

(i) Price statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics

(j) Integrated economic statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Friends of the Chair

(k) Short-term economic indicators.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

6. Natural resources and environment statistics:

(a) Environment statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Environment Statistics

(b) Environmental accounting;

Documentation

Report of the Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting

Report of the London Group on Environmental Accounting

(c) Climate change statistics.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

7. Activities not classified by field:

(a) Coordination and integration of statistical programmes;

Documentation

Report of the Committee on the Coordination of Statistical Activities

(b) Management issues in national statistical offices;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(c) Statistics of human development;

Documentation

Report of the Bureau of the Statistical Commission

Report of the United Nations Development Programme

(d) Implementation of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(e) International economic and social classifications;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(f) Common open standards for the exchange and sharing of data and metadata;

Documentation

Report of the Task Force to Establish Standards on Data and Metadata Exchange

(g) Statistical capacity-building;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

Report of the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the Twenty-first Century

(h) Development indicators;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(i) Follow-up to Economic and Social Council policy decisions;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(j) Principles governing international statistical activities;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(k) Regional statistical development;

Documentation

Report of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

(l) National quality assurance framework;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(m) Global geographic information management;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(n) Inventory on Global Statistical Standards;

Documentation

Report of the Committee on the Coordination of Statistical Activities

(o) World Statistics Day;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(p) Measurement of Economic Performance and Social Progress

Documentation

Report of France

8. Programme questions (United Nations Statistics Division).

9. Provisional agenda and dates for the forty-third session of the Commission.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat containing the draft provisional agenda for the forty-third session of the Commission

Note by the Secretariat on the draft multi-year programme of work of the Commission

10. Report of the Commission on its forty-second session.

B. Decisions brought to the attention of the Council

2. The following decisions adopted by the Commission are brought to the attention of the Council:

41/101
Programme review: national quality assurance frameworks*

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the high-quality programme review contained in the report of Statistics Canada on national quality assurance frameworks[1] and expressed its appreciation to Statistics Canada for the work that it had carried out as programme reviewer;

(b) Thanked Eurostat and the International Monetary Fund for their contributions to the report and expressed gratitude to regional agencies and countries that had provided valuable comments on the draft version;

(c) Emphasized the importance of the topic and fully supported the development of a quality assurance framework template that would focus on national statistical systems, using existing frameworks to the extent possible, and that would be sufficiently flexible to take national circumstances into consideration;

(d) Recognized that such a template is only a first step in the process of developing a full quality management programme;

(e) Supported the establishment of an expert group on quality assurance, with due consideration to be given to proper regional representation, and welcomed the offers made by countries and international agencies to serve in the group;

(f) Recognized the importance of engaging users, especially in the regional consultation processes that are proposed;

(g) Requested that the United Nations Statistics Division and other international agencies develop tools and provide guidance and training, especially to developing countries that wish to introduce or strengthen their quality management procedures; in this context, the Commission asked the Division to upgrade its quality assurance website to include links to relevant quality assurance tools and guidelines already developed by countries and international agencies.

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* For the discussion, see chap. II, sect. A.

[1] See E/CN.3/2010/2.

41/102
Agricultural statistics*

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the high-quality report of the Friends of the Chair on Agricultural Statistics[2] presenting the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics;

(b) Expressed its appreciation to Brazil, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Bank and all members of the Friends of the Chair group for their excellent work and the wide consultation process involving all key stakeholders at the national, regional and international levels;

(c) Endorsed the technical content and strategic directions of the Global Strategy as presented in the report;

(d) Urged FAO and the Friends of the Chair on Agricultural Statistics to expedite the development of the implementation plan aimed at strengthening the national agricultural statistical system, with the steps necessary to develop the master sample frame, the integrated survey framework and the data management system;

(e) With regard to the implementation plan, recommended that a comprehensive technical assistance programme, an articulated training programme and a well-targeted research agenda, as well as clear indications on funds management and governance arrangements at the global, regional and national levels, be included;

(f) Recommended also that particular attention be paid to the following:

(i) Urgent development of the core data and more detailed specification of the data items;

(ii) Integration of agricultural and rural statistics into the national statistical system;

(iii) Coordination between national statistical offices and ministries of agriculture through effective governance mechanisms;

(iv) Integration of agricultural statistics with other statistical domains, including macroeconomic statistics and national accounts;

(v) Consideration, in developing the technical assistance programme of the implementation plan, of the grouping of countries according to the level of their statistical development;

(vi) Development of methodological guidelines for specific situations, such as small-scale agriculture, agriculture under difficult conditions, and nomadic populations;

(g) Recognized that the implementation of the Global Strategy and the application of new survey technologies and modern data-collection instruments will

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* For the discussion, see chap. II, sect. B.

[2] See E/CN.3/2010/3.

require the mobilization of significant resources, and welcomed the financial and technical support provided by countries, the donor communities and technical cooperation agencies;

(h) Requested the Friends of the Chair group to report back to the forty-second session of the Commission on the progress made in the development of the implementation plan.

41/103
International merchandise trade statistics*

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Expressed great appreciation for the efforts undertaken by the United Nations Statistics Division in the organization of the efficient revision process, including the conduct of the worldwide consultation, and commended the Expert Group on International Merchandise Trade Statistics, the Task Force on International Merchandise Trade Statistics, and countries for their contributions;

(b) Adopted "International merchandise trade statistics: concepts and definitions 2010" (IMTS2010) and endorsed the implementation programme as set out in paragraphs 25 to 31 of the report of the Secretary-General on international merchandise trade statistics,[1] including the preparation of the revised *International Merchandise Trade Statistics Compilers Manual* and continued technical assistance activities;

(c) Requested the Expert Group and the Task Force to continue their work, focus on the implementation of IMTS2010 and give due consideration to national circumstances, the harmonization of national and regional compilation practices and the conduct of related comparison studies;

(d) Requested that greater attention be given to the strengthening of institutional arrangements in countries to ensure that proper national coordination mechanisms exist for the compilation of high-quality international merchandise trade statistics; also requested that cooperation with compilers of statistics on international trade in services, the balance of payments and national accounts be ensured;

(e) Recognized the importance of the United Nations Commodity Trade Statistics Database as the global database and information platform on international merchandise trade, and requested the United Nations Statistics Division to enhance its features and metadata;

(f) Advised that, in the future research agenda, due consideration be given to emerging trade policy needs and globalization issues; and, in this context, advised that linkage with business statistics and measuring merchandise trade in terms of added value be further explored.

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* For the discussion, see chap. II, sect. C.

[1] E/CN.3/2010/5.

41/104
Statistics of international trade in services*

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Expressed appreciation for the intensive work carried by the members of the Task Force on Statistics of International Trade in Services in revising the *Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services*;

(b) Adopted the *Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services 2010* (MSITS2010);

(c) Endorsed the implementation programme and urged the Task Force to take note of the following:

(i) The importance of the compilation guidance;

(ii) The significance of trade in services in globalization and links to other frameworks;

(iii) The emphasis on linking the *Manual* to the revised *Balance of Payments Manual*, the revised *System of National Accounts* and the linkage to commodity trade;

(d) Urged the Task Force to give particular importance to the following areas:

(i) Foreign Affiliates Statistics, in particular outward Foreign Affiliates Statistics;

(ii) Tourism statistics and the measurement of the contributions of tourism to national and regional economies;

(iii) Valuation and pricing;

(iv) Research and development;

(e) Urged the Task Force to set a time frame for the implementation plan so that member countries could plan their implementation processes accordingly;

(f) Urged that the national implementation programme be carried out as a coordinated effort of national statistical offices, central banks and other relevant Government agencies;

(g) Encouraged all relevant international agencies and the United Nations regional commissions, especially members of the Task Force, to contribute to the implementation of MSITS2010, and recognized the efforts of the International Monetary Fund in capacity-building with regard to balance-of-payments statistics;

(h) Recognized that training is particularly important in trade in services statistics because of its methodological complexity.

* For the discussion, see chap. II, sect. D.

41/105
International Comparison Programme*

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the World Bank on the status of the preparations for the 2011 round of the International Comparison Programme and the established institutional and partnership arrangements for its implementation at the regional level, as well as its overall timetable;[4]

(b) Expressed its appreciation for the work done by the World Bank, the regional coordinating agencies, the Global Office and the Executive Board under the effective leadership of its Chair;

(c) Expressed its appreciation for the willingness of the World Bank to host the overall coordination of the Programme and to commit human and financial resources to its implementation at various levels;

(d) Approved the objectives of the 2011 round of the Programme as set out in the report of the World Bank, with specific emphasis on the innovations and methodological improvements envisioned;

(e) Took note of the concerns expressed by some member States about the uses of purchasing power parities for poverty analysis and requested the Executive Board to address those concerns;

(f) Noted that the successful implementation of the Programme hinges significantly on regional consultation and the role of regional coordinating agencies, and therefore urged the latter to actively engage their member countries to participate in the Programme and take the necessary preparatory steps;

(g) Recognized the importance of the transparency of the Programme's processes, welcomed the commitment of the Global Office to ensuring that the relevant knowledge is widely and publicly disseminated, and urged the Executive Board and the Global Office to take the relevant measures;

(h) Recognized that the Programme is a major worldwide undertaking that could be successfully used for the enhancement of the statistical capacity of countries;

(i) Approved the expansion of the Programme and urged the Global Office and the regional coordinating agencies to speed up the resource mobilization efforts so that a maximum number of countries could participate in the new round;

(j) Urged the Global Office to enhance statistical capacity-building mechanisms, with specific emphasis on countries participating in the Programme for the first time;

(k) Took note of the concerns of countries, especially those in the Caribbean region, regarding their non-participation in the previous round of the Programme and urged the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to take note of those concerns and address them so as to ensure that as many Caribbean countries as possible are involved in the new round;

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* For the discussion, see chap. II, sect. E.

[4] See E/CN.3/2010/7.

(l) Reiterated that the Programme is a global project requiring the concerted efforts of regional, bilateral and national institutions that participate in various ways, including through technical assistance, and urged them to provide support to countries with lower statistical capacity. In this context, the Commission welcomed the offer of support from regional and subregional organizations in the implementation of the Programme;

(m) Recognized the usefulness of the results of the 2005 round and recommended that the relevant lessons learned in developing methodologies and establishing various statistical procedures be leveraged in the context of implementing the 2011 round.

41/106
National accounts*

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Expressed its sincere appreciation to the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts for its high-quality work in steering the development of the *System of National Accounts, 2008* (2008 SNA) to a successful conclusion;

(b) Welcomed the finalization of the English version of the 2008 SNA and its availability on the United Nations Statistics Division website;

(c) Expressed its appreciation to the contributing national and international organizations for their efforts in the translation of the 2008 SNA into the official United Nations languages as well as Japanese, Korean and Portuguese, and stressed the importance of expediting the translation and publication of the 2008 SNA in order to facilitate its implementation;

(d) Requested the Working Group to provide detailed guidance on the consistent implementation of the 2008 SNA for the three identified stages of implementation, taking into account the different levels of statistical development of countries and the implementation of other statistical standards, such as the *Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual*, the *International Merchandise Trade Statistics Compilers Manual*, the *Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services* and the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities, Version 4, the Central Product Classification, Version 2, and international recommendations on basic source statistics such as industrial statistics and distributive trade statistics;

(e) Supported the Working Group in requesting countries to formulate appropriate strategies and programmes in building statistical and institutional capacity to implement the 2008 SNA and to improve the scope, detail and quality of national accounts and supporting economic statistics;

(f) Expressed full support and appreciation to the Working Group for the continuous engagement of the regional commissions and other regional agencies in the implementation of the 2008 SNA and welcomed the initiatives of the regional groups to lead the early formulation of regional strategies and programmes for such implementation;

* For the discussion, see chap. II, sect. F.

(g) Stressed the need for an outreach programme to the highest level of government and other types of users about the benefits of the implementation of the 2008 SNA, and requested the Working Group to provide specific guidance on the advocacy of such implementation;

(h) Welcomed, in the light of the economic and financial crisis, the coordinated initiatives of the United Nations Statistics Division and Eurostat with Member States on the development of a data template of high-frequency and composite business cycle indicators and the initiatives of the Inter-Agency Group on Economic and Financial Statistics (the Bank for International Settlements, the European Central Bank, Eurostat, the International Monetary Fund (Chair), the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the World Bank and the United Nations), while taking into account the implementation of the 2008 SNA and existing dissemination frameworks such as the Special Data Dissemination Standard;

(i) Requested the Working Group, in coordination with the initiatives noted in paragraph (h) above, to assess whether those initiatives could be integrated into the implementation programme of the 2008 SNA and to report back to the next session of the Commission on its assessment;

(j) Expressed support for the proposed mechanisms for coordinating training and research on national accounts as described in the report of the Working Group to the Commission[5] and the background document for the report;

(k) Supported the initiatives to use common existing tools for the compilation of national accounts and called for the strengthening of technical capacity in this area;

(l) Stressed the importance of the sustained training of national accountants and called on the regional and subregional training organizations to work with the Working Group to coordinate and scale up training efforts, to support a knowledge base on training material on national accounts and supporting statistics, and to seek the early harmonization of training material based on agreed best practices;

(m) Requested the Working Group to reassess the research agenda of the 2008 SNA, taking into account recent emerging issues (inter alia, the Stiglitz report and the communication of the European Commission entitled "GDP and beyond: measuring progress in a changing world"), and to provide at the next session of the Commission a list of actions and themes for future research work;

(n) Supported the active involvement of the Advisory Expert Group on National Accounts to assist the Working Group in developing the elements of the implementation programme of the 2008 SNA and in taking forward issues on the research agenda of the 2008 SNA and newly emerging research issues;

(o) Suggested that attention be paid to the following issues:

(i) Availability of basic and sectoral statistics;

(ii) Adjustments based on national circumstances;

(p) Also suggested that the reasons for the slowness of the process and the factors that hampered the implementation of the 1993 SNA be studied and that

[5] See E/CN.3/2010/8.

appropriate recommendations be made, possibly through the formation of a Friends of the Chair group.

41/107
Environment statistics*

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Recognized the importance of environment statistics and congratulated the Expert Group on its excellent work and report;

(b) Acknowledged that the 1984 *Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics* has been a useful framework in many countries for the development of environment statistics;

(c) Endorsed the programme of work for the revision of the *Framework* and the development of a core set of environment statistics;

(d) Cautioned that the current efforts related to the revision of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting should not be diluted;

(e) Emphasized, with regard to the guiding principles for the revision, the need to:

(i) Engage all stakeholders, including the scientific community, in the process;

(ii) Ensure complementarity with the System;

(iii) Use caution when considering the ecosystem approach or other policy frameworks as the conceptual foundation for the revised *Framework*;

(iv) Provide supporting methodological guidance and best practices within a reasonable time following the revision of the *Framework*;

(f) Recommended, with regard to the proposed contents of the revised *Framework*, that higher visibility be given to the need for institutional coordination and cooperation, and work that has been done at the regional level;

(g) Asked the United Nations Statistics Division to develop a more realistic timetable, in consultation with countries and other stakeholders;

(h) Noted the importance of greater involvement by the Intersecretariat Working Group on Environment Statistics in the development of the *Framework*;

(i) Welcomed the interest and the willingness of countries and agencies to contribute to this work and participate in the planned expert group;

(j) Welcomed the proposal by the United Nations Statistics Division to develop a website that would serve as a knowledge base for country practices on environment statistics.

* For the discussion, see chap. II, sect. G.

41/108
Environmental accounting*

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting,[6] expressed its appreciation for the progress of the work carried out by the Committee and thanked the Chair of the Committee for the leadership demonstrated;

(b) Expressed its appreciation for the methods of work of the Committee of Experts, in particular with regard to the broad consultation undertaken with regard to the mandate, governance and programme of work of the Committee;

(c) Agreed with the mandate and governance of the Committee of Experts;

(d) Noted with appreciation the highest priority being given to the timely revision of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting in the Committee's work programme, and urged the Committee to prioritize work for the completion of volume 1;

(e) Expressed its appreciation for the progress of the work of the London Group on Environmental Accounting in resolving expediently the majority of the issues on the issue list for volume 1 of the revised System; and thanked the Group and its Chair for that achievement;

(f) Expressed appreciation to Member States and international and supranational organizations for their financial and in kind contributions to the revision of the System;

(g) Urged the Committee of Experts to closely consult with the various relevant entities and groups, including the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, in the course of its work;

(h) Welcomed the role played by the Committee of Experts in coordinating its programme of work with various city groups, technical expert groups and intergovernmental organizations working in environmental-economic accounting and supporting statistics, in order to avoid duplication;

(i) Adopted part I of the International Recommendations for Water Statistics, endorsed part II as supplementary guidance and encouraged the implementation of the Recommendations in countries;

(j) Requested that the International Recommendations for Water Statistics be translated into the official languages of the United Nations as quickly as possible.

41/109
World Statistics Day**

The Statistical Commission:

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* For the discussion, see chap. II, sect. H.

** For the discussion, see chap. II, sect. I.

[6] See E/CN.3/2010/11.

(a) Warmly welcomed the report of the Secretary-General on World Statistics Day;[7]

(b) Endorsed 20 October 2010 as the date for the first World Statistics Day;

(c) Endorsed the general theme of "Celebrating the many achievements of official statistics" and the core values of service, integrity and professionalism, while recognizing that each country may develop its own national theme, taking into account national priorities and circumstances;

(d) Requested the Secretary-General to communicate with all heads of Government, conveying a message regarding the importance of official statistics, emphasizing the need for national Governments to provide sufficient support to the national statistical systems and requesting Member States to observe World Statistics Day;

(e) Urged all Member States to observe World Statistics Day and to organize related activities not only in cooperation with all institutes of the national statistical systems, but also with researchers, academia, media and other users of statistics;

(f) Requested the United Nations Statistics Division to prepare a repository and resource kit on World Statistics Day celebrations and activities and to make it available on a designated website;

(g) Took note with appreciation of the initiatives that have been planned in observance of World Statistics Day at the regional and international levels;

(h) Requested the United Nations Statistics Division to report back to the Commission at its forty-second session on the experiences related to World Statistics Day 2010 in order to discuss the periodicity of the event.

41/110
Global geographic information management*

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Expressed appreciation to the National Statistical and Geographical Institute of Brazil for having prepared a report on global geographic information management[8] and for having brought that important topic to the attention of the Commission;

(b) Recognized the importance of the integration of geographic and statistical information and the opportunities provided in that context by the swift development of information technology, noting that national statistical offices are playing an increasing role in such integration, especially in the area of census management;

(c) Called upon all national statistical offices to actively participate, in partnership with relevant national authorities, in the further development of national geographic information capacity in the context of spatial data infrastructures, taking

* For discussion, see chap. II, sect. J.
[7] E/CN.3/2010/12.
[8] E/CN.3/2010/13.

full advantage of information technology and focusing special attention on the area of improving statistical and geographic metadata compatibility;

(d) Requested the Secretary-General to prepare a report outlining a global vision for geographic information management to be submitted to the Economic and Social Council, reviewing the existing mechanisms and exploring the possibility of creating a global forum;

(e) Requested the Statistics Division to convene a meeting of an international expert group, consisting of statisticians and geographical information specialists, to address global geographic information management issues;

(f) Requested the Secretariat to report back to the Commission on the work of the expert group and the preparations for a possible global forum.

41/111
Inventory on Global Statistical Standards*

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Warmly welcomed the offer of the National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico to provide the inventory of global statistical standards to the international community, in order to transform it into a global database to be managed and updated globally;

(b) Welcomed the proposal of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities to create appropriate mechanisms for the further development and maintenance of the inventory of global statistical standards and, in this regard, requested the Committee to propose a proper classification of those standards;

(c) Agreed with the proposal that the inventory database be posted on the website of the United Nations Statistics Division for broad public access and use by countries and other users for harmonization and as a reference tool for measuring the degree of compliance with international standards;

(d) Urged the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities to take the steps necessary for the translation of the inventory into other United Nations official languages with a view to its easy use;

(e) Requested the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities to submit a progress report to the Commission at its forty-second session.

41/112
Development indicators**

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Secretary-General on indicators for monitoring the Millennium Development Goals[9] and expressed full appreciation for the work done by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Millennium Development

* For the discussion, see chap. II, sect. K.
** For the discussion, see chap. II, sect. L.
[9] E/CN.3/2010/15.

Goals Indicators and the United Nations Statistics Division in improving the transparency of methodologies for estimates and the coordination of national monitoring, addressing discrepancies between national and international data and using new technologies such as Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange for Millennium Development Goals indicators;

(b) Endorsed the initiatives to improve the coordination of data production and monitoring at the country level and stressed the need to avoid the duplication of activities in this area;

(c) Recognized the increased use of country data in the monitoring of the Millennium Development Goals and supported further action to increase the use of country data, since there is still much room for improvement, especially with respect to health indicators;

(d) Supported the organization of future workshops on Millennium Development Goals monitoring in regions not yet covered, such as Latin America and the Caribbean;

(e) Called on the Inter-Agency and Expert Group and the United Nations Statistics Division to conduct more training initiatives on Millennium Development Goals monitoring and subnational monitoring and to collaborate closely with the United Nations regional commissions and other regional institutions to strengthen countries' statistical capacity and address data discrepancies;

(f) Fully endorsed the work done to resolve discrepancies between national and international sources, recognizing that countries should ultimately have full ownership of monitoring data;

(g) Requested the United Nations Statistics Division to establish an inventory of studies on discrepancies between national and international data, and to make such an inventory easily accessible on the website of the Division;

(h) Welcomed the use of Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange for Millennium Development Goals indicators as an important tool for improving coordination and reporting on the Goals;

(i) Welcomed the updated version of the handbook on Millennium Development Goals indicators as an instrument for improving countries' statistical capacity and requested that it be available in all United Nations official languages;

(j) Took note of the recommendation that the importance of non-communicable diseases be considered and encouraged countries to produce, in collaboration with the World Health Organization, indicators to monitor such diseases;

(k) Expressed appreciation for the work done by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group and the United Nations Statistics Division to establish a consultation process between countries and international agencies, and expressed concern that there were now incidences in which full consultation was lacking, such as in the case of the expansion of the Human Development Index, which could undermine progress made in this area over the past five years;

(l) Recognized the importance of the Human Development Index to countries and the extensive consultation that the Commission had undertaken with the Human Development Report Office in the past;

(m) Expressed regret that there had been a lack of consultation with the Statistical Commission on the revision of the current Human Development Index;

(n) Requested the Human Development Report Office to take note of the transparent procedures of the Statistical Commission in developing new statistical methodology on indices that have an impact on countries;

(o) Requested the Bureau of the Commission, together with experts from the regions, to undertake immediate consultation with the Human Development Report Office on the methodologies and data used in the proposed revision of the Human Development Index and to take appropriate decisions based on the consultation;

(p) In view of the lack of consultation and the lack of transparency, the Commission will, at its forty-second session, assess the methodological soundness of the proposed Human Development Index, the appropriateness of the data used and the conclusions drawn therefrom, if this is recommended by the Bureau.

(q) Requested the Bureau of the Commission and the Human Development Report Office to report back to the forty-second session of the Statistical Commission on this consultation and the resulting recommendations.

41/113
Regional statistical development in Latin America and the Caribbean*

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) on the development of official statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean[10] prepared by and expressed appreciation for all the initiatives undertaken by ECLAC under the auspices of the Statistical Conference of the Americas;

(b) Noted the progress in regional cooperation facilitated by the Conference, its executive committee and its working groups;

(c) Acknowledged the usefulness of sharing regional experiences at the global level and encouraged the United Nations Statistics Division to further facilitate such interregional exchanges;

(d) Recognized the importance of subregional coordination efforts as an integral part of a regional statistical development strategy;

(e) Noted the coordination and consultation issues raised by some representatives of the countries of the Caribbean Community and asked ECLAC to further enhance its efforts towards greater regional cooperation; and in particular, noted the concerns expressed regarding the report and requested ECLAC to prepare an updated and more comprehensive version.

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* For the discussion, see chap. II, sect. M.

[10] See E/CN.3/2010/16.

41/114
Programme questions (United Nations Statistics Division)*

The Statistical Commission took note of the oral report presented by the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division concerning the current activities, plans and priorities of the Division. In particular, the Commission took note of the proposed strategic framework for the biennium 2012-2013, as set out in an informal background paper that had been circulated;

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Items for information**

The Commission took note of the following documents:

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Wye Group on Statistics on Rural Development and Agriculture Household Income[11]

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Environment Statistics[12]

Report of the Secretary-General on population and housing censuses[13]

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the International Labour Organization on its new statistical organization and on labour statistics[14]

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on statistics on drugs, drug use and crime[15]

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Washington Group on Disability Statistics[16]

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on the 2009 UNESCO Framework for Cultural Statistics[17]

Report of the Secretary-General on industrial statistics[18]

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Voorburg Group on Services Statistics[19]

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the International Monetary Fund on the Inter-Agency Task Force on Finance Statistics[20]

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* For the discussion, see chap. IV.
** For the discussion, see chap. III.
[11] E/CN.3/2010/4 and Corr.1.
[12] E/CN.3/2010/10.
[13] E/CN.3/2010/17.
[14] E/CN.3/2010/18.
[15] E/CN.3/2010/19.
[16] E/CN.3/2010/20.
[17] E/CN.3/2010/21.
[18] E/CN.3/2010/22.
[19] E/CN.3/2010/23.

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Ottawa Group on Price Indexes[21]

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Delhi Group on Informal Sector Statistics[22]

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Friends of the Chair on integrated economic statistics[23]

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Partnership on Measuring Information and Communication Technologies for Development[24]

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the Twenty-first Century on statistical capacity-building[25]

Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities[26]

Report of the Secretary-General on international economic and social classifications[27]

Note by the Secretary-General on policy decisions of the Economic and Social Council that are relevant to the work of the Statistical Commission[28]

[20] E/CN.3/2010/24.
[21] E/CN.3/2010/25.
[22] E/CN.3/2010/26.
[23] E/CN.3/2010/27.
[24] E/CN.3/2010/28.
[25] E/CN.3/2010/29.
[26] E/CN.3/2010/30.
[27] E/CN.3/2010/31.
[28] E/CN.3/2010/32.

Chapter II
Items for discussion and decision

A. Programme review: national quality assurance frameworks

1. The Commission considered item 3 (a) of its agenda at its 1st and 6th meetings, on 23 and 26 February 2010. At its 1st meeting, on 23 February, the Commission had before it the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of Statistics Canada on national quality assurance frameworks (E/CN.3/2010/2), and the observer for Canada made an introductory statement.

2. At the 1st meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Japan, Suriname, Lebanon, China, Norway, Italy, Colombia, Mexico and Morocco, and the observers for Yemen (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China), Finland, Egypt, France, the Niger, Jamaica, Switzerland, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Iran (Islamic Republic of).

3. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the European Community and the International Monetary Fund.

4. Also at the 1st meeting, the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Commission

5. At its 6th meeting, on 26 February, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a draft decision for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (a) of its agenda. Following statements by the representative of Norway, the observers for Canada and South Africa, and the representatives of the International Monetary Fund and the European Commission, the Commission adopted the draft decision as amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 41/101).

B. Agricultural statistics

6. The Commission considered item 3 (b) of its agenda at its 1st, 2nd and 6th meetings, on 23 and 26 February 2010. At its 1st and 2nd meetings, on 23 February, the Commission had before it the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Friends of the Chair on Agricultural Statistics (E/CN.3/2010/3) and the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Wye Group on Statistics on Rural Development and Agriculture Household Income (E/CN.3/2010/4). At the 1st meeting, introductory statements were made by the observer for Brazil, as Convener of the Friends of the Chair on Agricultural Statistics, and the representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. At the 1st and 2nd meetings, statements were made by the representatives of Japan, China, the United States of America, Cameroon, Morocco, Australia and Norway, and the observers for the Republic of Korea, Mongolia, Ethiopia, Cape Verde, New Zealand, Cuba, the Niger, Paraguay, Egypt, Mauritania and Senegal. The observer for Palestine also made a statement.

7. At the same meetings, statements were made by the representatives of the European Union and the World Bank.

8. Also at the 1st and 2nd meetings, the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Commission

9. At its 6th meeting, on 26 February, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a draft decision for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (b) of its agenda and adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 41/102).

C. International merchandise trade statistics

10. The Commission considered item 3 (c) of its agenda at its 2nd and 6th meetings, on 23 and 26 February. At its 2nd meeting, on 23 February, the Commission had before it the report of the Secretary-General on international merchandise trade statistics (E/CN.3/2010/5).

11. At the 2nd meeting, the Chief of the Trade Statistics Branch of the United Nations Statistics Division made an introductory statement, and statements were made by the representatives of Lebanon, Lithuania, Japan, the Russian Federation and the United States of America, and the observer for the Philippines.

12. At the same meeting, the representative of the World Trade Organization made a statement.

13. Also at the 2nd meeting, the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Commission

14. At its 6th meeting, on 26 February, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a draft decision for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (c) of its agenda and adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 41/103).

D. Statistics of international trade in services

15. The Commission considered item 3 (d) of its agenda at its 2nd and 6th meetings, on 23 and 26 February. At its 2nd meeting, on 23 February, the Commission had before it the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Task Force on Statistics of International Trade in Services (E/CN.3/2010/6). The representative of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, as Convener of the Task Force, made an introductory statement.

16. At the 2nd meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and

Morocco, and the observers for Mongolia, Brazil, Hungary and Jamaica. The observer for Palestine also made a statement.

17. At the same meeting, the representative of the International Monetary Fund made a statement.

Action taken by the Commission

18. At its 6th meeting, on 26 February, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a draft decision for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (d) of its agenda and adopted the draft decision, as amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 41/104).

E. International Comparison Programme

19. The Commission considered item 3 (e) of its agenda at its 2nd and 6th meetings, on 23 and 26 February 2010. At its 2nd meeting, on 23 February, the Commission had before it the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the World Bank on the International Comparison Programme (E/CN.3/2010/7), and the representative of the World Bank made an introductory statement.

20. At the 2nd meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Norway, Oman, Lebanon, Suriname, Morocco and China, and the observers for Egypt, the Dominican Republic, Algeria, Barbados, France, the Bahamas, South Africa and India.

21. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the European Union, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the African Development Bank, the Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Asian Development Bank.

22. Also at the 2nd meeting, the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Commission

23. At its 6th meeting, on 26 February, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a draft decision for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (e) of its agenda. Following statements by the representative of Norway, the observers for India, Canada and South Africa and the representatives of the World Bank and the African Development Bank, the Commission adopted the draft decision, as amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 41/105).

F. National accounts

24. The Commission considered item 3 (f) of its agenda at its 2nd, 3rd and 6th meetings, on 23, 24 and 26 February 2010. At its 2nd meeting, on 23 February, the Commission had before it the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts (E/CN.3/2010/8), and

the Chief of the Economic Statistics Branch of the United Nations Statistics Division made an introductory statement.

25. At the 2nd meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Netherlands, Morocco, Lithuania and the Russian Federation, and the observers for Cuba, Côte d'Ivoire and France.

26. At the same meeting, the representative of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization made a statement.

27. At the 3rd meeting, on 24 February, statements were made by the representatives of Japan, Australia, Cameroon, China, the United States of America, Italy and Germany, and the observers for the Niger, Jordan, Mongolia, Sri Lanka, Peru, the Philippines, South Africa, Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Indonesia, Denmark, Jamaica, Brazil and Nigeria. The observer for Palestine made a statement.

28. At the same meeting, the representatives of the Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the African Development Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific made statements.

29. Also at the 3rd meeting, the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Commission

30. At its 6th meeting, on 26 February, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a draft decision for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (f) of its agenda. Following statements by the representatives of the Russian Federation, Lebanon and Italy, the observers for Algeria and Jordan, and the representatives of the European Union, the International Monetary Fund and Eurostat, the Commission adopted the draft decision, as amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 41/106).

G. Environment statistics

31. The Commission considered item 3 (g) of its agenda at its 3rd and 6th meetings, on 24 and 26 February 2010. At its 3rd meeting, on 24 February, the Commission had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics (E/CN.3/2010/9) and also, for information, the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Environment Statistics (E/CN.3/2010/10). The Chief of the Environment and Energy Statistics Branch of the United Nations Statistics Division introduced the report.

32. At the 3rd meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Suriname, the Netherlands, Morocco, Oman, Mexico, Norway, China, Cameroon, Botswana, Australia and the United States of America, and the observers for Canada, Finland, Bangladesh, Austria, Denmark, Sri Lanka, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Egypt, Malawi, Iran (Islamic Republic of), India, the United Republic of Tanzania, Thailand, Chad, the Bahamas, Indonesia and Qatar.

33. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, Eurostat, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the World Meteorological Organization and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

34. Also at the 3rd meeting, the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Commission

35. At its 6th meeting, on 26 February, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a draft decision for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (g) of its agenda and adopted the draft decision, as amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 41/107).

H. Environmental accounting

36. The Commission considered item 3 (h) of its agenda at its 3rd and 6th meetings, on 24 and 26 February 2010. At its 3rd meeting, on 24 February, the Commission had before it the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting (E/CN.3/2010/11), and the representative of Australia, as Chair of the Committee, made an introductory statement.

37. At the 3rd meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Australia, the Netherlands, Japan, China, Lithuania, Norway, the United States of America and Morocco, and the observers for India, Canada, Egypt, Brazil and France.

38. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, Eurostat (on behalf of the European Union), the World Meteorological Organization and the Economic Commission for Europe.

39. Also at the 3rd meeting, the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Commission

40. At its 6th meeting, on 26 February, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a draft decision for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (h) of its agenda and adopted the draft decision, as amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 41/108).

I. World Statistics Day

41. The Commission considered item 3 (i) of its agenda at its 3rd, 4th and 6th meetings, on 24 and 26 February 2010. At its 3rd and 4th meetings, on 24 February,

the Commission had before it the report of the Secretary-General on World Statistics Day (E/CN.3/2010/12).

42. At its 3rd meeting, the Commission heard an introductory statement by the Director of the Statistics Division.

43. At the same meeting, the representative of Lebanon made a statement.

44. At the 4th meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Germany, Italy, Japan, the Russian Federation, China, Australia, Colombia and Morocco, and the observers for Turkey, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Barbados, the Niger, New Zealand, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Philippines, Bangladesh, Switzerland, Jordan, Thailand, Indonesia and Afghanistan.

45. At the same meeting, statements were also made by the representatives of the Caribbean Community, the International Statistical Institute, the Economic Commission for Africa and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

46. Also at the 4th meeting, the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Commission

47. At its 6th meeting, on 26 February, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a draft decision for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (i) of its agenda and adopted the draft decision, as amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 41/109).

J. Global geographic information management

48. The Commission considered item 3 (j) of its agenda at its 4th and 6th meetings, on 24 and 26 February 2010. At its 4th meeting, on 24 February, the Commission had before it the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the National Statistical and Geographical Institute of Brazil on global geographic information management (E/CN.3/2010/13), and the observer for Brazil made an introductory statement.

49. At the 4th meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Germany, Mexico and Australia, and the observers for Cuba, Paraguay, Argentina, South Africa, Denmark, Egypt, Bangladesh, Canada, Sweden, the Republic of Korea and Afghanistan. The observer for Palestine also made a statement.

50. At the same meeting, the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Commission

51. At its 6th meeting, on 26 February, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a draft decision for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (j) of its agenda and adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 41/110).

K. Inventory on Global Statistical Standards

52. The Commission considered item 3 (k) of its agenda at its 4th and 6th meetings, on 24 and 26 February 2010. At its 4th meeting, on 24 February, the Commission had before it the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico on international statistical standards and the harmonization of national statistics (E/CN.3/2010/14), and the representative of Mexico made an introductory statement.

53. At the 4th meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Suriname and China, and the observers for Algeria, Senegal, Spain, Ghana, Ecuador, the Republic of Korea, Jordan, Peru and Poland.

54. At the same meeting, the representative of the European Union also made a statement.

55. Also at the 4th meeting, the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Commission

56. At its 6th meeting, on 26 February, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a draft decision for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (k) of its agenda and adopted the draft decision, as amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 41/111).

L. Development indicators

57. The Commission considered item 3 (l) of its agenda at its 4th, 5th and 6th meetings, on 24, 25 and 26 February 2010. At its 4th and 5th meetings, on 24 and 25 February, the Commission had before it the report of the Secretary-General on indicators for monitoring the Millennium Development Goals (E/CN.3/2010/15); at the 4th meeting, on 24 February, the Chief of the Statistical Development and Indicators Section of the United Nations Statistics Division made an introductory statement.

58. At the 4th meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Suriname, the Netherlands, Oman, Germany and Morocco, and the observers for Egypt, the Philippines, South Africa, Cuba and the Niger.

59. At the same meeting, the representatives of the European Union and the Association for Southeast Asian Nations made statements.

60. At the 5th meeting, on 25 February, statements were made by the representatives of Morocco, Lebanon, the Netherlands and Italy, and the observers for Cape Verde, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, South Africa, Ecuador, Qatar, the Republic of Moldova, France and Cuba.

61. At the same meeting, the representatives of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Economic Commission for Africa, the United Nations Development Programme and the World Health Organization made statements.

62. Also at the 5th meeting, the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Commission

63. At its 6th meeting, on 26 February, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a draft decision for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (l) of its agenda.

64. At the same meeting, following a statement by the representative of the United Nations Development Programme, the Commission adopted the draft decision, as amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 41/112).

M. Regional statistical development in Latin America and the Caribbean

65. The Commission considered item 3 (m) of its agenda at its 5th and 6th meetings, on 25 and 26 February 2010. It had before it the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean on the development of official statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean (E/CN.3/2010/16).

66. At the 5th meeting, on 25 February, the representative of ECLAC made an introductory statement.

67. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Suriname, Lebanon, Colombia, China and Mexico, and the observers for the Dominican Republic, Ghana, South Africa, Cuba, the Bahamas, Jamaica, Viet Nam, Paraguay and Barbados.

68. Also at the 5th meeting, the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Commission

69. At its 6th meeting, on 26 February, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a draft decision for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (m) of its agenda.

70. At the same meeting, following statements by the representatives of Japan, Italy, Lebanon and Morocco, the observers for South Africa, Cuba, Brazil, Canada, New Zealand, Ecuador and Poland, and the representatives of ECLAC, the European Union and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Commission adopted the draft decision, as amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 41/113).

Chapter III
Items for information

1. The Commission considered item 4 of its agenda at its 5th meeting, on 25 February 2010.

2. At the 5th meeting, on 25 February, the representatives of the United States of America and Oman, and the observers for the Philippines, New Zealand, Iran (Islamic Republic of), France, Mongolia, the Republic of Korea, Indonesia, Senegal, India, South Africa, Afghanistan, Qatar and Saudi Arabia made statements with regard to agenda item 4.

3. At the same meeting, the representatives of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime made statements.

A. Population and housing censuses

Action taken by the Commission

4. The Commission considered item 4 (a) of its agenda at its 5th meeting, on 25 February 2010. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on population and housing censuses (E/CN.3/2010/17).

5. At its 5th meeting, on 25 February, the Commission took note of the report of the Secretary-General on population and housing censuses (E/CN.3/2010/17) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 41/115).

B. Employment statistics

Action taken by the Commission

6. The Commission considered item 4 (b) of its agenda at its 5th meeting, on 25 February 2010. It had before it the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the International Labour Organization on its new statistical organization and on labour statistics (E/CN.3/2010/18).

7. At its 5th meeting, on 25 February, the Commission took note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the International Labour Organization on its new statistical organization and on labour statistics (E/CN.3/2010/18) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 41/115).

C. Statistics on drugs and drug use

Action taken by the Commission

8. The Commission considered item 4 (c) of its agenda at its 5th meeting, on 25 February 2010. It had before it the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on statistics on drugs, drug use and crime (E/CN.3/2010/19).

9. At its 5th meeting, on 25 February, the Commission took note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on statistics on drugs, drug use and crime (E/CN.3/2010/19) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 41/115).

D. Washington Group on Disability Measurement

Action taken by the Commission

10. The Commission considered item 4 (d) of its agenda at its 5th meeting, on 25 February 2010. It had before it the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Washington Group on Disability Statistics (E/CN.3/2010/20).

11. At its 5th meeting, on 25 February, the Commission took note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Washington Group on Disability Statistics (E/CN.3/2010/20) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 41/115).

E. Culture statistics

Action taken by the Commission

12. The Commission considered item 4 (e) of its agenda at its 5th meeting, on 25 February 2010. It had before it the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on the 2009 UNESCO Framework for Cultural Statistics (E/CN.3/2010/21).

13. At its 5th meeting, on 25 February, the Commission took note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on the 2009 UNESCO Framework for Cultural Statistics (E/CN.3/2010/21) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 41/115).

F. Industrial statistics

Action taken by the Commission

14. The Commission considered item 4 (f) of its agenda at its 5th meeting, on 25 February 2010. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on industrial statistics (E/CN.3/2010/22).

15. At its 5th meeting, on 25 February, the Commission took note of the report of the Secretary-General on industrial statistics (E/CN.3/2010/22), adopting part I of the *International Recommendations for the Index of Industrial Production 2010*, containing recommendations; endorsing part II, containing guidance; and recommending to Member States that they use and adhere to the practices described therein for the production of comparable industrial production indices (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 41/115).

G. Statistics of services

Action taken by the Commission

16. The Commission considered item 4 (g) of its agenda at its 5th meeting, on 25 February 2010. It had before it the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Voorburg Group on Services Statistics (E/CN.3/2010/23).

17. At its 5th meeting, on 25 February, the Commission took note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Voorburg Group on Services Statistics (E/CN.3/2010/23) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 41/115).

H. Finance statistics

Action taken by the Commission

18. The Commission considered item 4 (h) of its agenda at its 5th meeting, on 25 February 2010. It had before it the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the International Monetary Fund on the Inter-Agency Task Force on Finance Statistics (E/CN.3/2010/24).

19. At its 5th meeting, on 25 February, the Commission took note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the International Monetary Fund on the Inter-Agency Task Force on Finance Statistics (E/CN.3/2010/24) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 41/115).

I. Ottawa Group on Price Indexes

Action taken by the Commission

20. The Commission considered item 4 (i) of its agenda at its 5th meeting, on 25 February 2010. It had before it the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Ottawa Group on Price Indexes (E/CN.3/2010/25).

21. At its 5th meeting, on 25 February, the Commission took note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Ottawa Group on Price Indexes (E/CN.3/2010/25) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 41/115).

J. Delhi Group on Informal Sector Statistics

Action taken by the Commission

22. The Commission considered item 4 (j) of its agenda at its 5th meeting, on 25 February 2010. It had before it the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Delhi Group on Informal Sector Statistics (E/CN.3/2010/26).

23. At its 5th meeting, on 25 February, the Commission took note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Delhi Group on Informal Sector Statistics (E/CN.3/2010/26) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 41/115).

K. Integrated economic statistics

Action taken by the Commission

24. The Commission considered item 4 (k) of its agenda at its 5th meeting, on 25 February 2010. It had before it the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Friends of the Chair on integrated economic statistics (E/CN.3/2010/27).

25. At its 5th meeting, on 25 February, the Commission took note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Friends of the Chair on integrated economic statistics (E/CN.3/2010/27) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 41/115).

L. Information and communication technologies statistics

Action taken by the Commission

26. The Commission considered item 4 (l) of its agenda at its 5th meeting, on 25 February 2010. It had before it the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Partnership on Measuring Information and Communication Technologies for Development (E/CN.3/2010/28).

27. At its 5th meeting, on 25 February, the Commission took note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Partnership on Measuring Information and Communication Technologies for Development (E/CN.3/2010/28) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 41/115).

M. Statistics capacity-building

Action taken by the Commission

28. The Commission considered item 4 (m) of its agenda at its 5th meeting, on 25 February 2010. It had before it the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the Twenty-first Century on statistical capacity-building (E/CN.3/2010/29).

29. At its 5th meeting, on 25 February, the Commission took note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the Twenty-first Century on statistical capacity-building (E/CN.3/2010/29) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 41/115).

N. Coordination and integration of statistical programmes

Action taken by the Commission

30. The Commission considered item 4 (n) of its agenda at its 5th meeting, on 25 February 2010. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (E/CN.3/2010/30).

31. At its 5th meeting, on 25 February, the Commission took note of the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (E/CN.3/2010/30) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 41/115).

O. International economic and social classifications

Action taken by the Commission

32. The Commission considered item 4 (o) of its agenda at its 5th meeting, on 25 February 2010. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on international economic and social classifications (E/CN.3/2010/31).

33. At its 5th meeting, on 25 February, the Commission took note of the report of the Secretary-General on international economic and social classifications (E/CN.3/2010/31) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 41/115).

P. Follow-up to Economic and Social Council policy decisions

Action taken by the Commission

34. The Commission considered item 4 (p) of its agenda at its 5th meeting, on 25 February 2010. It had before it the note by the Secretary-General on policy decisions of the Economic and Social Council that are relevant to the work of the Statistical Commission (E/CN.3/2010/32).

35. At its 5th meeting, on 25 February, the Commission took note of the note by the Secretary-General on policy decisions of the Economic and Social Council that are relevant to the work of the Statistical Commission (E/CN.3/2010/32) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 41/115).

Chapter IV
Programme questions (United Nations Statistics Division)

1. The Commission considered item 5 of its agenda at its 5th meeting, on 25 February 2010. It heard an oral report by the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division on the current activities, plans and priorities of the Division.

Action taken by the Commission

2. At its 5th meeting, on 25 February, the Commission took note of the oral report by the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division, as orally revised. In particular, the Commission took note of the proposed strategic framework for the biennium 2012-2013, as set out in an informal background paper that had been circulated (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 41/114).

Chapter V

Provisional agenda and dates for the forty-second session of the Commission

1. The Commission considered item 6 of its agenda at its 6th meeting, on 26 February 2010. It had before it the following documents, which were introduced and orally revised by the Chief of the Statistical Services Branch of the United Nations Statistics Division:

(a) Provisional agenda and documentation for the forty-second session of the Commission (E/CN.3/2010/L.2);

(b) Note by the Secretariat containing the draft multi-year programme of work of the Statistical Commission, 2010-2013 (E/CN.3/2010/33).

2. At the 6th meeting, on 26 February, statements were made by the representatives of the Netherlands, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Cameroon, Morocco and Germany, and the observers for France, South Africa and Ghana.

Action taken by the Commission

3. At its 6th meeting, on 26 February, the Commission approved the provisional agenda for its forty-second session, as orally revised, and entrusted the Bureau with streamlining and finalizing it. The Commission also decided to recommend it, as orally revised, to the Council for approval (see chap. I, sect. A).

4. At the same meeting, the Commission decided to recommend to the Council that its forty-second session be held from 22 to 25 February 2011 (see chap. I, sect. A).

5. Also at its 6th meeting, the Commission approved its draft multi-year programme of work for 2010-2013, as orally revised.

Chapter VI
Report of the Commission on its forty-first session

1. The Commission considered item 7 of its agenda at its 6th meeting, on 26 February 2010.

2. At the 6th meeting, on 26 February, the Rapporteur introduced the draft report of the Commission on its forty-first session (E/CN.3/2010/L.3) and an informal paper containing draft decisions.

3. At the same meeting, statements on the text of the informal paper were made by the representatives of Norway, the Russian Federation, Morocco, Lebanon, Italy and Japan, and the observers for Canada, South Africa, Peru, Algeria, Jordan, Cuba, Brazil, New Zealand and Ecuador.

4. Also at the 6th meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the International Monetary Fund, the European Union, the World Bank, the African Development Bank and the United Nations Development Programme.

5. At the same meeting, the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division responded to points raised during the discussion.

Action taken by the Commission

6. At its 6th meeting, on 26 February, the Commission adopted the draft report, including the draft decisions contained therein, as orally revised, and entrusted the Rapporteur with streamlining and finalizing it. After the adoption of the draft report, the Chair made a statement.

Chapter VII
Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

1. The Statistical Commission held its forty-first session at United Nations Headquarters from 23 to 26 February 2010. The Commission held 6 meetings (1st to 6th).

B. Attendance

2. The session was attended by representatives of 24 States members of the Commission. Observers for other States Members of the United Nations and for non-member States, representatives of organizations of the United Nations system and observers for intergovernmental, non-governmental and other organizations also attended. A list of participants is contained in document E/CN.3/2010/INF/1.

C. Election of officers

3. At its 1st meeting, on 23 February 2010, the Commission elected the following officers by acclamation:

Chair:
Ali bin Mahboob Al-Raisi (Oman)

Vice-Chairs:
Brian Pink (Australia)
Anna N. Majelantle (Botswana)
Alexander Surinov (Russian Federation)

Rapporteur:
Iwan Sno (Suriname)

D. Agenda and organization of work

4. At its 1st meeting, on 23 February 2010, the Commission adopted its provisional agenda, as contained in document E/CN.3/2010/1. The agenda read as follows:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Items for discussion and decision:
   (a) Programme review: national quality assurance frameworks;
   (b) Agricultural statistics;
   (c) International merchandise trade statistics;
   (d) Statistics of international trade in services;
   (e) International Comparison Programme;

(f) National accounts;

(g) Environment statistics;

(h) Environmental accounting;

(i) World Statistics Day;

(j) Global geographic information management;

(k) Inventory on Global Statistical Standards;

(l) Development indicators;

(m) Regional statistical development in Latin America and the Caribbean.

4. Items for information:

(a) Population and housing censuses;

(b) Employment statistics;

(c) Statistics on drugs and drug use;

(d) Washington Group on Disability Statistics;

(e) Culture statistics;

(f) Industrial statistics;

(g) Statistics of services;

(h) Finance statistics;

(i) Ottawa Group on Price Indexes;

(j) Delhi Group on Informal Sector Statistics;

(k) Integrated economic statistics;

(l) Information and communication technologies statistics;

(m) Statistical capacity-building;

(n) Coordination and integration of statistical programmes;

(o) International economic and social classifications;

(p) Follow-up to Economic and Social Council policy decisions.

5. Programme questions (United Nations Statistics Division).

6. Provisional agenda and dates for the forty-second session of the Commission.

7. Report of the Commission on its forty-first session.

5. At the same meeting, the Commission approved the organization of the work of the session (E/CN.3/2010/L.1).

6. Also at its 1st meeting, the Commission invited the following organizations to participate as observers at its forty-first session: the Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics; the Economic and Statistical Observatory of Sub-Saharan

Africa; the Pacific Community; and the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries.

E. Documentation

7. The documents before the Commission at its forty-first session are listed on the website of the United Nations Statistics Division at http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/sc2010.htm.

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